

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Esch's Spur Bridge

and/or common Esch's Spur Bridge

2. Location

street & number Three miles south and three miles west of Dexter n/a not for publication

city, town Dexter ☒ vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Cowley code 35

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Cowley County

street & number Cowley County Courthouse

city, town Winfield ☐ vicinity of state Kansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Cowley County Courthouse

city, town Winfield state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Bridges-- has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no  
Kansas Dept. of Transportation

date 1980-83 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society

city, town Topeka state Kansas

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered

☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Esch's Spur bridge crosses Grouse Creek three miles south and three miles west of Dexter, Kansas. The triple span stone arch bridge has a total length of 182 feet and is 13 feet wide curb to curb. The deck lies 17 feet above the water level.

The stone arches spring from and are disposed between two abutments and stone piers. Stone spandrel walls retain the earthen fill and are capped with concrete. This concrete cap forms the roadway curbing. The spandrel walls do not extend above the crown of the elliptical arches and the roadway rests directly on the arch ring.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates [1910–1920] Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Esch's Spur bridge retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling and association. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and method of construction no longer being used namely the construction of a roadway supported by a stone arch which is loaded by an earthen fill, which, in turn, is retained by stone spandrel walls. This bridge may yield information important to the history of engineering.

The stone arch bridge was popular in Kansas because the stone and construction expertise was locally available. Although somewhat more expensive, initially, to construct they were very strong and long lived. Cowley county was blessed with exceptionally good building stone. The county commission, at the turn of the century, created a special bridge fund and began a concerted effort to bridge the numerous streams they had. This bridge is a result of that effort. The use of local stone and labor makes this bridge unique and particularly suited to its environment.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"To Bid on Stone Bridges," Kansas City Star, March 25, 1906

"Our Building Stone," Dexter Advocate, November 17, 1904.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Eaton, Kansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	4	6	9	7	1	0	0	4	1	1	1	9	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

That property over which the bridge is built including bridge structure and abutments. SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S33 T33S R6E

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
n/a			

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Larry Jochims, Research Historian and Michael Snell

organization Kansas State Historical Society date 2/20/85

street & number 120 West Tenth telephone (913) 296-2973

city or town Topeka state Kansas

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society date 3/4/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

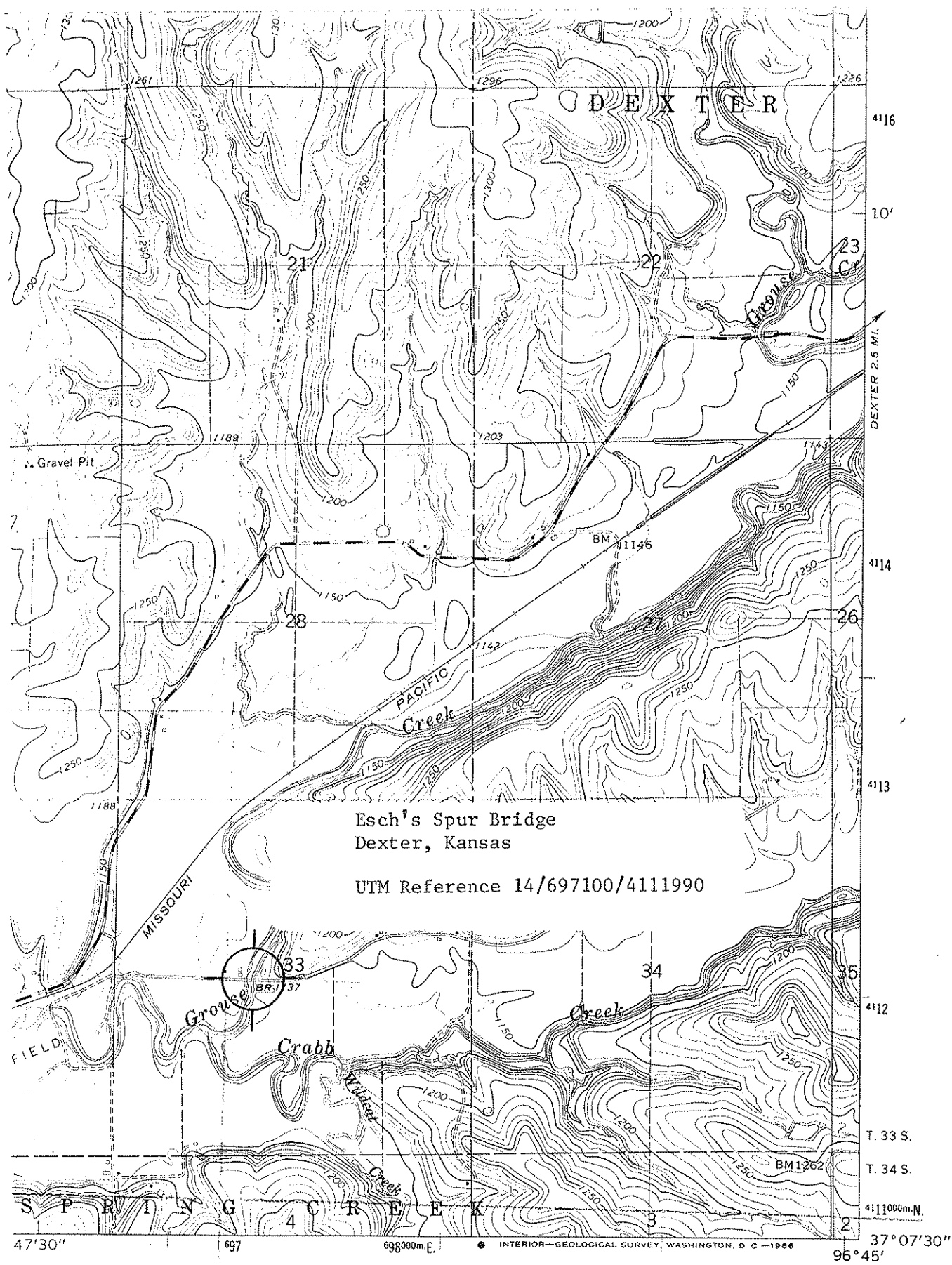
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

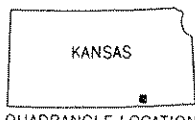
Chief of Registration



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	.....
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	.....

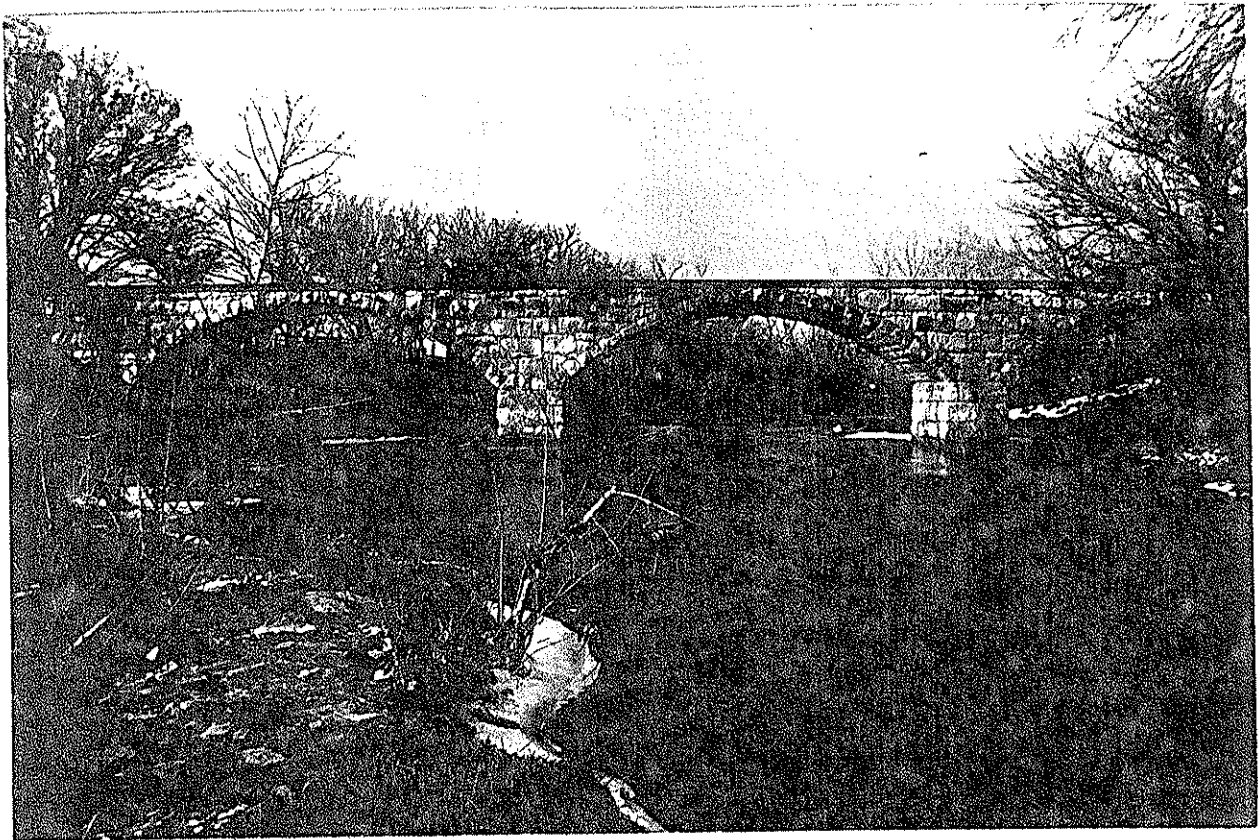
U.S. Route      State Route



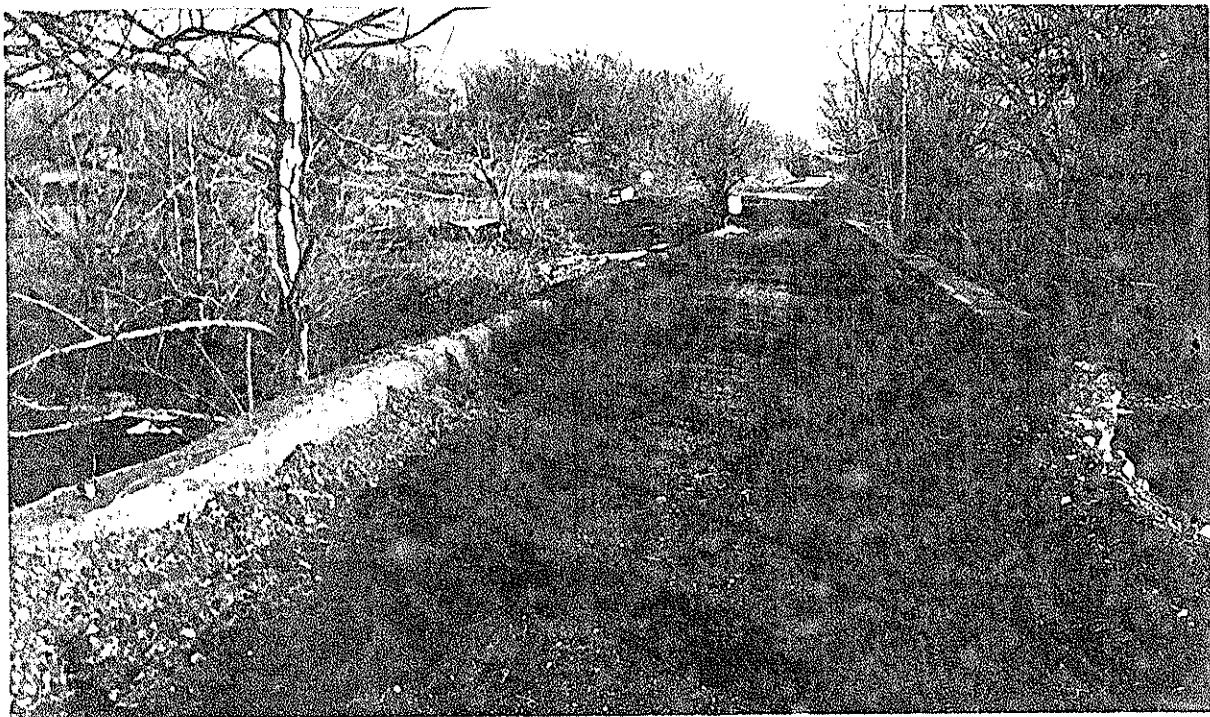
EATON KANS

(DEXTER SW)  
6658 11 SW

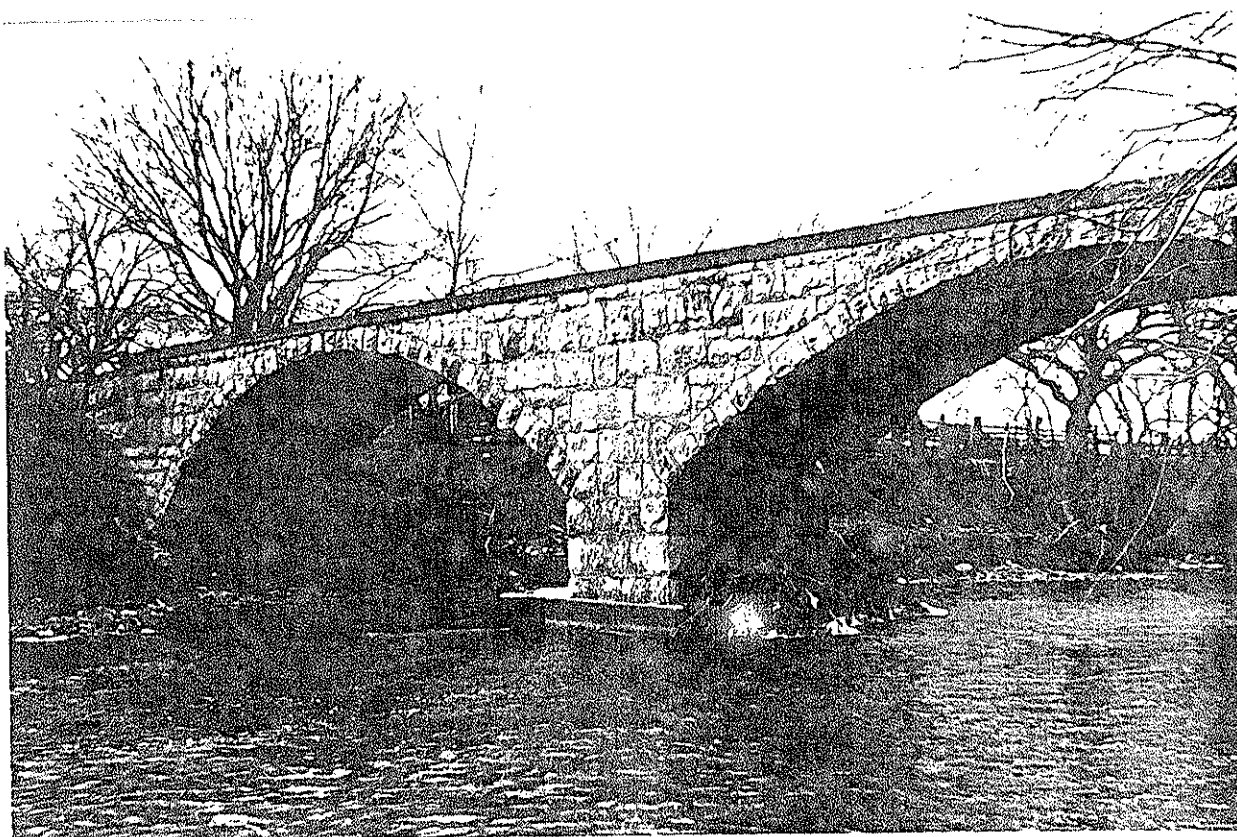
The following photographs were taken at Esch's Spur, Kansas by Larry Jochims and Michael Snell on January 28, 1985. Photograph negatives are located at the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.



Grouse Creek Bridge. South Side Looking North.



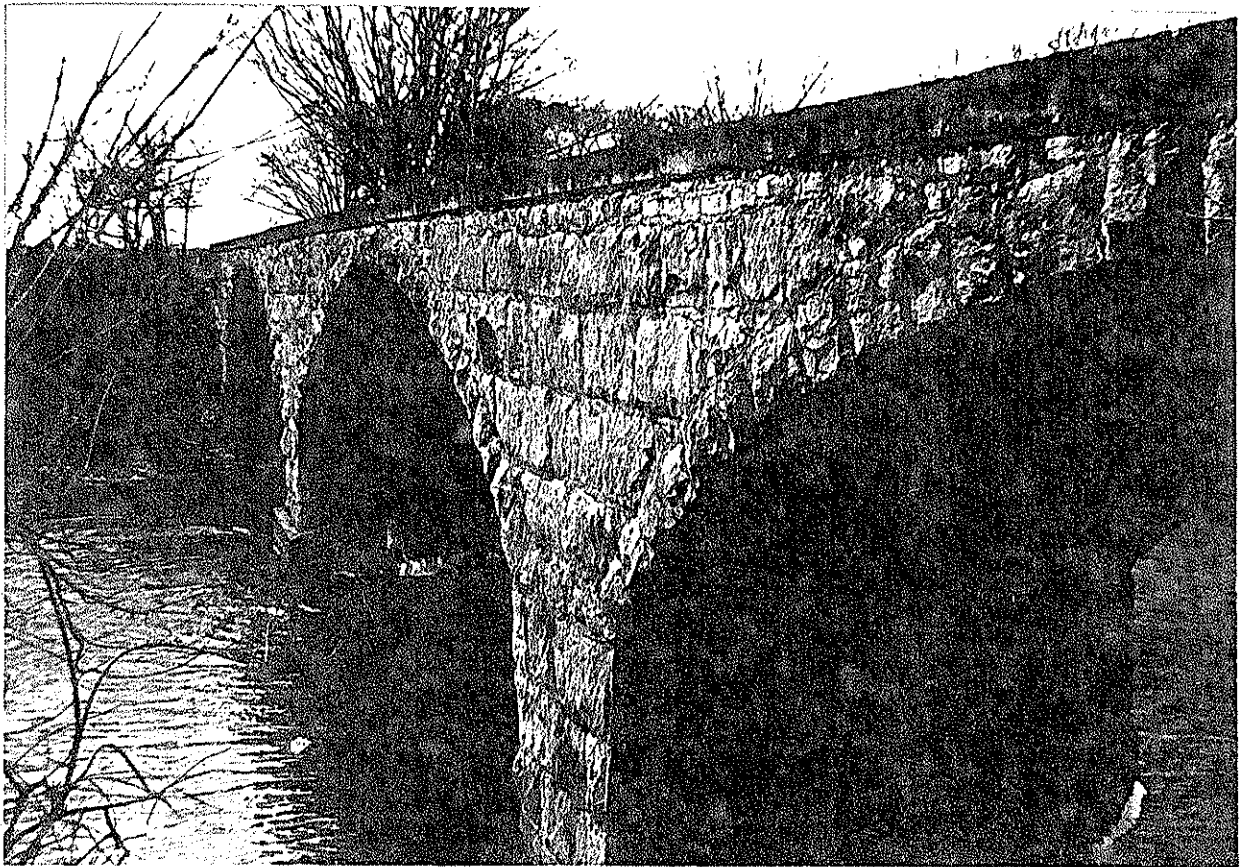
Grouse Creek Bridge.  
West Approach Looking East.



Grouse Creek Bridge.  
South Side of West Arch Looking Northwest.

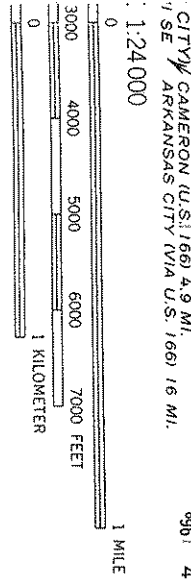


The following photographs were taken at Esch's Spur by Larry Jochims and Michael Snell on January 28, 1985. Photograph negatives are located at the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

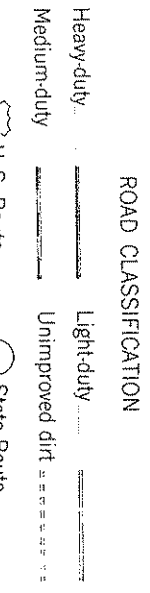


Grouse Creek Bridge.  
South Side Looking North West.

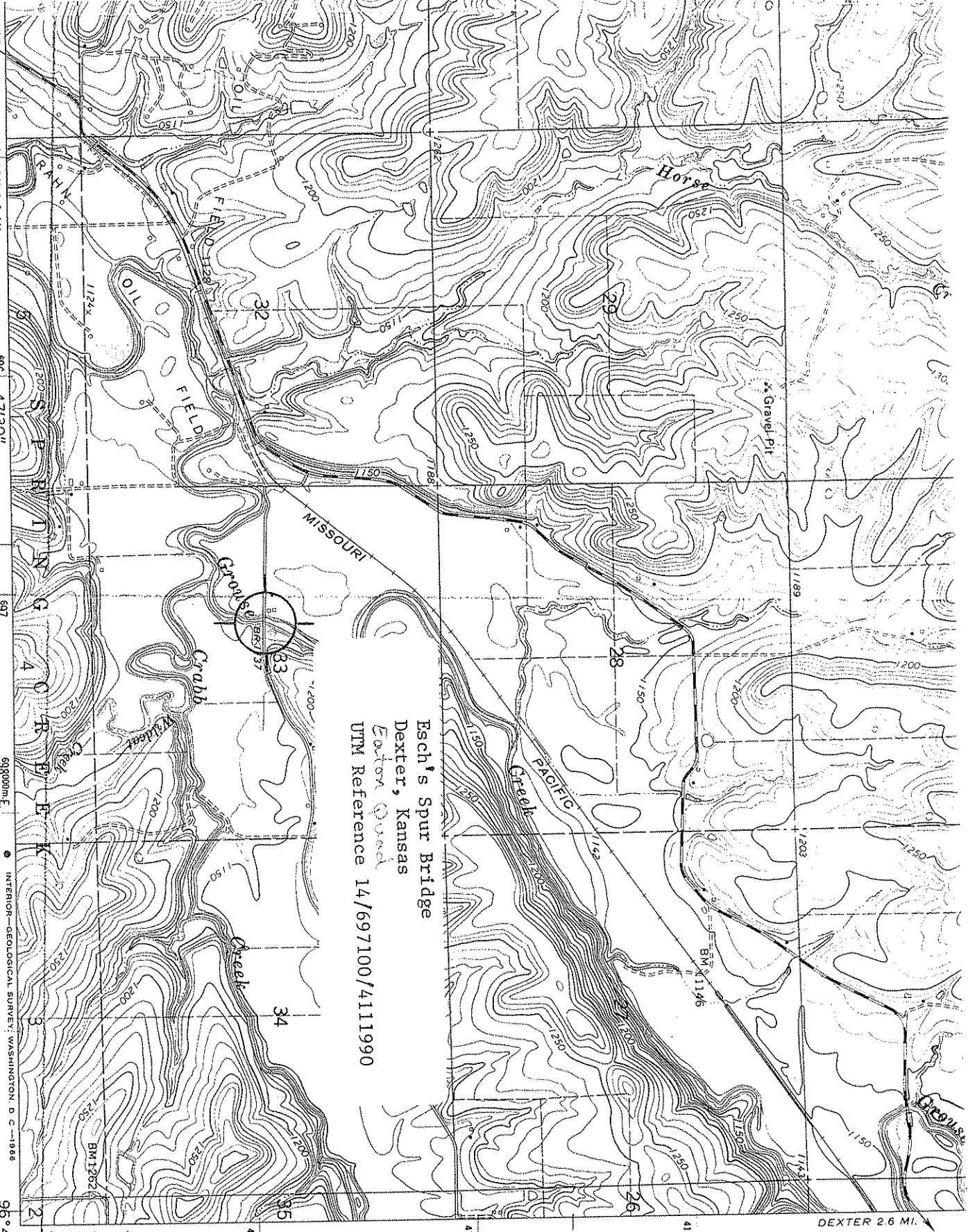




CITY CAMERON (U.S. 166) 4.9 MI.  
1/2 SE ARKANSAS CITY (VIA U.S. 166) 16 MI.



DEXTER SW  
6638 11 SW



Esch's Spur Bridge  
Dexter, Kansas  
Easton Quad  
UTM Reference 14/697100/4111990

SITE NO. 18-AR-21

## KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY

County Cowley Structural Type MAR Date Constructed 1900Road System \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Planning Dept Designation \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_  
Off-System ☒ Secondary Rds Designation 811  
Urban \_\_\_\_\_Location-Route East edge of Esch's Spur Mile Post \_\_\_\_\_Feature Crossed Wildcat Cr. (TRIBUTARY) Legal Description  
SE 1/4, NW 1/4 S-33 T 33 R 6EBridge Number 881. 50694.5 Number of spans 3  
Span identity and description \_\_\_\_\_LENGTH-182' WIDTH-13'

Truss type:

## Historical Data:

Date Constructed \_\_\_\_\_ Erector Contractor \_\_\_\_\_

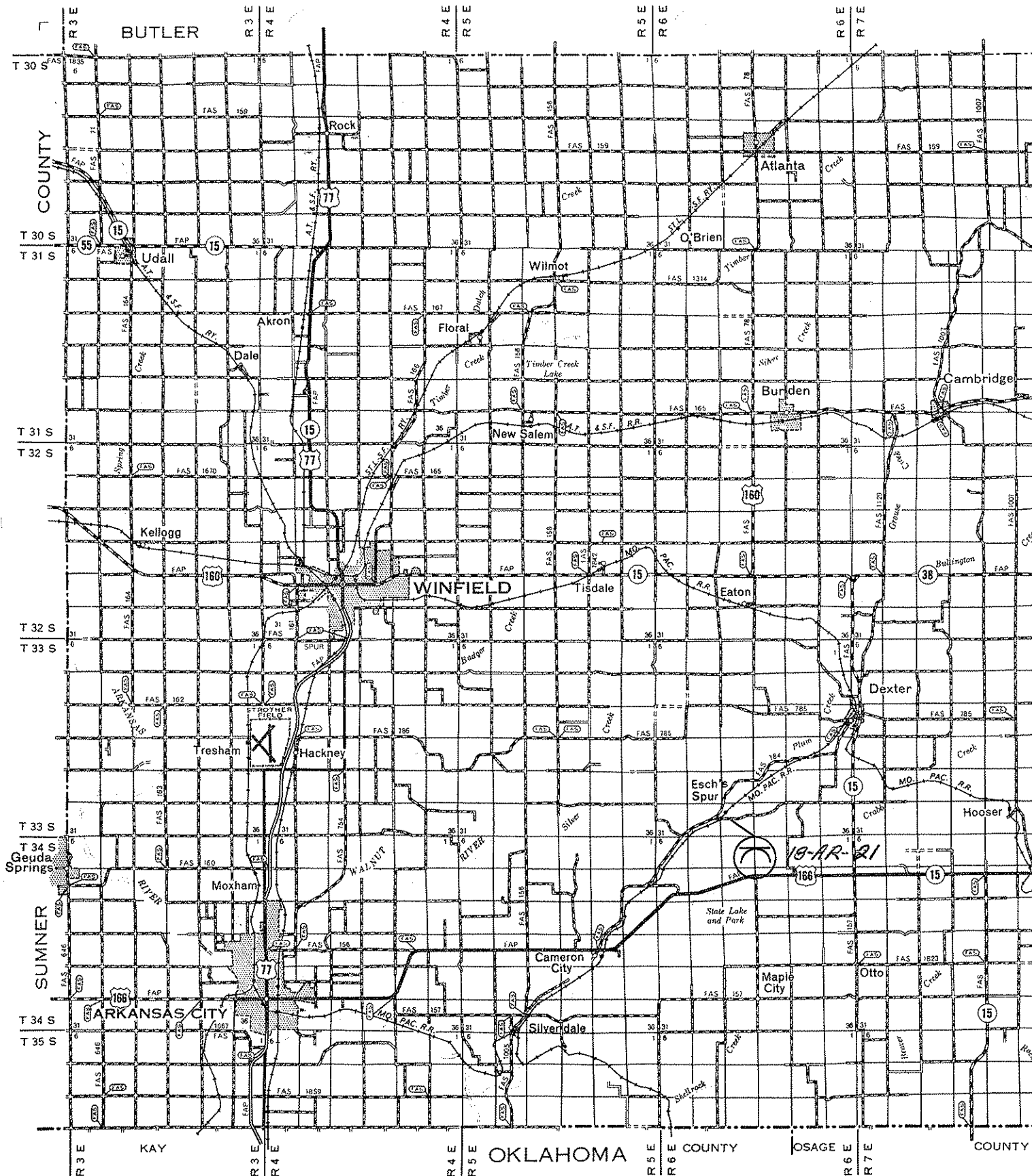
Manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_

Located in Historical District? or near Historical Site? \_\_\_\_\_

Original Use \_\_\_\_\_ Present Use 8-26-81Photos Taken? ☒ (8) Date \_\_\_\_\_Current Condition: Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ Good ☒ Fair \_\_\_\_\_ Deteriorated \_\_\_\_\_  
Altered \_\_\_\_\_ Demolished \_\_\_\_\_

Field Observation Notes:

Inventory Completed by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



### LEGEND

**ROADS AND ROADWAY FEATURES**

PRIMITIVE ROAD .....  
 UNIMPROVED ROAD .....  
 GRADED AND DRAINED ROAD .....  
 SOIL SURFACED ROAD .....  
 GRAVEL OR STONE ROAD—  
 NOT GRADED OR DRAINED .....  
 GRAVEL OR STONE ROAD—  
 GRADED AND DRAINED .....  
 GRAVEL OR STONE ROAD WITH  
 STABILIZED SURFACE .....  
 BITUMINOUS ROAD—LOW TYPE .....  
 PAVED ROAD .....  
 DIVIDED HIGHWAY .....  
 HIGHWAY WITH FULL CONTROL OF  
 ACCESS AND INTERCHANGE

**ROAD SYSTEM DESIGNATION**

FEDERAL-AID INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM .....  
 FEDERAL-AID PRIMARY HIGHWAY SYSTEM .....  
 FEDERAL-AID SECONDARY HIGHWAY SYSTEM .....  
 POINTS BETWEEN WHICH DISTANCES ARE  
 MEASURED INDICATED THIS .....  
 INTERSTATE NUMBERED HIGHWAY .....  
 U.S. NUMBERED HIGHWAY .....  
 STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM OR  
 STATE NUMBERED HIGHWAY .....  
 END OF DESIGNATED SYSTEM OR  
 MARKED ROUTE



GE  
CO

ST/  
PL